Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) represented that it was desirable to give some political education to the people, especially in view of the fact that they had to elect representatives for the Sri Mulam Popular Asssembly and give detailed instructions to them as to their wants and grievances, and that nothing could accomplish this object better than the establishment of free reading rooms in the four chief towns of the four Divisions.

Reply.—Government cannot undertake to establish free reading rooms in the headquarters of divisions. Private enterprise should be left to do the needful.

171. Necessity for setting apart an hour in Catholic schools to teach holy books to Christian students.

Mr. Warkey John (*Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam*) said that it was desirable to set apart one hour every day for teaching the Bible in Catholic schools and requested that Government might accord sanction to the same.

Reply.—The managers of schools are at perfect liberty to do this, if they like, at any time outside the prescribed school hours.

172. Admission of pupils of all castes in Government schools.

Mr. G. Idichandy B. A., Bar-at-Law (*Mavelikara*) said that it was highly desirable that all Government schools should be thrown open without reservation to all castes and classes of His Highness the Maha Rajah's subjects and that those people who were not willing to send their children to such schools should be rather left to establish schools of their own. It might be said that the time was now premature for bringing about such a reform, but if Government were to wait for the adoption of any rule or measure until the majority of the subjects called for it, very few reforms could be effected at all, in view of the conservative spirit of the people of the State. Government should therefore do what they considered just and proper, making equality the cardinal principle of administration.

Mr. M. Govindan, B. A., B. L., (*Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalanayogam, Trivandrum*) spoke on the exclusion of Ealavas from many of the Government schools of the State. He presented a memorial signed by eleven members of the Assembly pointing out that in several Government schools the children of the Ealava community, one of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly